(d) whether it is a fact that Government of Pakistan owes Rs. 25 Lakh to the Delhi Transport Corporation and despite best efforts it has not been possible to recover the amount; and

(e) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) Prime Minister had, on April 18, 2003, extended once again the hand of friendship to Pakistan. In his telephone conversation with Pakistan's Prime Minister on April 28, 2003, Prime Minister had emphasized the importance of economic cooperation, cultural exchanges, people-to-people contacts and civil aviation links for creating a climate conducive to addressing more difficult issues. In this context, Government had on May 26, 2003, approved the resumption of Delhi-Lahore bus service as soon as the details were worked out by the technical authorities of the two countries. A technical team from Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation visited India and a technical level meeting was held between the two countries on June 19-20, 2003 in New Delhi. Subsequently, the bus resumed service from July 11, 2003.

(c) Passengers' response to the resumption of bus service is encouraging.

(d) and (e) After the reconciliation of figures as agreed between Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation during the latter's visit to New Delhi on June 19-20, 2003, Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation owes Rs. 19,69,104/- to DTC. During the course of their meeting, PTDC delegation agreed to remit the pending dues shortly. DTC has taken up with PTDC the question of early remittance of the funds.

Global Opinion Against Terrorism

†498. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether being the main promoter of peace in the world, Indian Government have taken any steps to generate world public opinion against the menace of global terrorism;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether this matter has been discussed with China; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (c) Yes. India has consistently highlighted to the international community the menace of global terrorism and the imperative of effective international action to combat it. This issue has been discussed with a number of countries including China. Many countries share India's perspective and are supportive of India's efforts.

PM's Visit to Europe

499. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what significant deliberations took place between the various Heads of the Countries during the Prime Minister's recent trip to Europe to improve India's point of view on the Kashmir issue with Pakistan; and

(b) what follow up action is being taken by Government on Prime Minister's point of view that trade barriers between the Countries be removed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) During Prime Minister's visit to Germany, St. Petersburg and Evian from 27 May—3 June, 2003 his interlocutors were sensitized to our concerns on the need for an immediate cessation of cross border terrorism. There was unanimous appreciation for Prime Minister's peace initiative.

(b) The issue of elimination of trade barriers between countries has been taken up by India in various fora, including of G8 Enlarged Dialogue in Evian.

Membership of UN Security Council

500. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Great Britain have declared their unequivocal support for India's claim for permanent Membership of the expanded United Nations Security Council;